

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached first sheet of drawings includes changes to Fig. 1. This sheet, which includes Figs. 1 and 2, replaces the original sheet(s) including Figs. 1 and 2.

The attached second sheet of drawings includes Fig. 3 and 4.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet
New Sheet

Remarks

The drawings have been objected to by the Examiner. Claims 1-18 are pending in the application, of which claims 1-18 have been rejected. By this paper, Applicant has amended the drawings to include features described in the specification and the claims as filed. Applicant has also amended the specification to be consistent with the amendments to the figures and to support limitations in the claims as filed.

Drawings

The drawings are objected to the Examiner under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings have been amended to show every feature of the invention specified in the claims, which are discussed in the specification.

Figure 1 has been amended to show a storage device 90 and a tape guide mechanism 100. No new matter has been added because support for the storage device was provided in the specification on page 7, lines 10-11 and in claims 1-18 as filed.

Figures 3 and 4 have been added to further illustrate disclosures of the specification. Figure 3 illustrates a tape mechanism with a single read/write head disposed along an axis as claimed. No new matter has been added because support for a single read/write head disposed along an axis was provided in the specification on page 5, line 30 - page 6, lines 1-2 and in the claim 4 as filed.

Illustrated in Figure 4 is a partial schematic view of a tape guide mechanism. A known flanged roller with grooves is illustrated that is capable of spinning. A known non-flanged, non-spinning post guide is illustrated. No new matter has been added because support for the non-flanged, non-spinning post guide was provided in the specification on page 6, lines 17-18 and in the claims as filed.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The Examiner has rejected claims 3, 4, and 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite.

With reference to claims 3 and 4, the Examiner states that “[i]t is unclear as to how a single or a pair of read/write heads can be included in a storage device?” Figure 1 has been amended to show how a pair of read/write heads may be included in a storage device. Also, Figure 3 has been added to show how a single read/write head may be included in a storage device. Thus, the figures have been corrected to illustrate how a single or pair of read/write heads can be included in a storage device. Therefore, claims 3 and 4 are not unclear.

Regarding claim 14, the Examiner asks “[w]hat are the first pair of flanged guides adjacent to? What are the second pair of flanged guides adjacent to?” Claim 14 has been amended to include the limitations “said first pair of flanged guides being adjacent to each other; and said second pair of flanged guides being adjacent to each other.” These limitations answer the Examiner's questions and therefore claim 14 is not indefinite.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

**Rejection of Claims
1-2 and 4 Over Saitou**

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-2 and 4 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Saitou (U.S. Patent No. 4,367,854) or Hoover et al (U.S. Patent No. 4,443,827).

Claim 1 requires “said cartridge reel being generally bisected by a longitudinal axis of said tape path.” Another limitation of claim 1 is that “said tape path being generally

symmetrically disposed about the axis.” Neither Saitou nor Hoover et al discloses the limitations of claim 1.

Saitou does not disclose a tape path that is generally symmetrically disposed about an axis bisecting the cartridge reel. Any axis which generally bisects the cartridge reels 3, 13 of Saitou would not allow for a tape path to be generally symmetrically disposed about the same axis. If the longitudinal axis were left to right in Saitou Figures 1, 2 or 5, up and down, or anywhere in between, the tape path would not be symmetrical about the axis. Saitou neither discloses nor teaches the limitations recited in claim 1. Thus, Saitou does not anticipate claim 1.

Claims 2 and 4 of the present invention depend from claim 1 and therefore are not anticipated by Saitou for at least the reasons stated above.

Hoover et al also does not teach or disclose the limitations of claim 1. Although the Examiner failed to explain the rejection over Hoover et al, Figure 3 of Hoover et al illustrates a tape path that is not symmetrical about any axis that would generally bisect the cartridge reel 36. Thus, Hoover et al does not anticipate claim 1 of the present invention.

Claims 2 and 4 of the present invention depend from claim 1 and therefore are not anticipated by Hoover et al for at least the reasons stated above.

**Rejection of Claims 1-3, 5-7,
9-15 and 17 Over Maxey**

Claims 1-3, 5-7, 9-15, and 17 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Maxey (U.S. Patent No. 4,275,424).

Claim 1 requires “said cartridge reel being generally bisected by a longitudinal axis of said tape path.” Claim 1 also requires “said tape path being generally symmetrically

disposed about the axis.” Maxey, on the other hand, does not disclose or teach the limitations of claim 1 because the tape path disclosed in Maxey is not symmetrical about any axis that would generally bisect the cartridge reel 15 of Figure 1. If an axis is drawn generally bisecting the cartridge reel 115b of Maxey Figure 9, the tape path is not generally symmetrical about the axis. Thus, Maxey does not anticipate Applicant’s claim 1.

Claims 2-3, 5-7, and 9-11 of the present invention depend from claim 1 and therefore are not anticipated by Maxey for at least the reasons stated above.

The Examiner did not present any arguments for claims 12-15 and 17. Additionally, the Examiner did not establish a *prima facie* case of anticipation because “to anticipate a claim, the reference must teach each and every element of the claim.” *MPEP* § 2131 (Citation omitted). Maxey does not teach each and every element of claims 12-15 and 17; and the Examiner did not provide any explanation to the rejection of these claims.

Although the Examiner failed to explain the rejection for claim 12, claim 12 requires “said plurality of flanged guides to be located remotely from said cartridge and take-up reels; and wherein flanged guides are not located in proximity to said cartridge or take-up reels.” Maxey does not teach the required limitations of claim 12. Therefore, Maxey does not anticipate claim 12.

Claims 13-15 of the present invention depend from claim 12 and therefore are not anticipated by Maxey for at least the reasons stated above.

Although the Examiner failed to explain the rejection for claim 17, claim 17 requires “a non-spinning non-flanged post guide located proximate to said take-up reel.” Maxey, on the other hand, does not teach or disclose this limitation because Maxey does not disclose a post guide located proximate to said take-up reel. Thus, Maxey does not anticipate claim 17.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

**Rejection of Claim 4 Over
Maxey and Saitou or Hoover et al**

The Examiner rejected claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Maxey as applied to claims 1-3, 5-7, 9-15, and 17 above, and further in view of Saitou (U.S. Patent No 4,367,854) or Hoover et al (U.S. Patent No. 4,443,827).

Claim 4 depends from claim 1. As discussed above, Saitou, Hoover et al, and Maxey each fail to anticipate claim 1. Therefore, the combination of Saitou, Hoover et al, and Maxey fails to suggest all of the limitations of the base claim.

Furthermore, claim 4 includes the limitation “a single read/write head disposed along said axis for reading data from and writing data to said tape.” Saitou does not teach or suggest a single read/write head within the storage device. Therefore, Saitou does not teach or suggest the read/write head as required in claim 4. Hoover et al also does not disclose a read/write head within the storage device, as required in claim 4. In contrast, Hoover et al discloses that “a transducer, such as a recording and/or playback head, is adapted to be inserted through opening 56 into contact with tape T so as to record and/or reproduce signals therefrom.” Thus, the read/write head is not in the storage device of Saitou.

Since the combination of the prior art references do not at least teach or suggest all the claim limitations, a prima facie case of obviousness for claim 4 over Maxey and further in view of Saitou or Hoover et al has not been established.

**Rejection of Claims 8, 16, and 18
Over Maxey and Poorman**

Claims 8, 16, and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Maxey as applied to claims 1-3, 5-7, 9-15, and 17 above, and further in view

of Poorman (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0087738). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

Claim 8 depends from claim 1 and therefore it is patentable over Maxey for at least the reasons stated above. Additionally, Poorman fails to teach or disclose all of the limitations of the base claim. Since the combination fails to teach or suggest all of the claim limitations, a prima facie case of obviousness has not been established.

Claim 16 depends from claim 12 and therefore it is patentable over Maxey for at least the reasons stated above. Additionally, Poorman fails to teach or disclose all of the limitations of the base claim. Since the combination fails to teach or suggest all of the claim limitations, a prima facie case of obviousness has not been established.

Claim 18 requires "said cartridge reel being bisected by a longitudinal axis of said tape path" and "said tape path being generally U-shaped and symmetrically disposed about said axis." Maxey or Poorman alone and in combination fail to teach or suggest this limitation.

Another limitation of claim 18 is "a plurality of flanged rollers disposed symmetrically about said axis." Maxey or Poorman alone and in combination fail to teach or suggest this limitation.

Claim 18 has a further limitation of "a first one of said first pair of rollers being located proximate to said first one of said pair of heads and a second one of said first pair of rollers being located remotely away from said first one of said pair of heads." Maxey or Poorman alone and in combination fail to teach or suggest this limitation.

In addition, claim 18 requires "a first one of said second pair of rollers being located proximate to said second one of said pair of heads and a second one of said second pair of rollers being located remotely away from said second one of said pair of heads." This

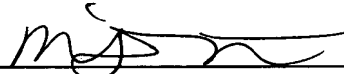
limitation is not taught or suggested in the combination of Maxey and Poorman. Considering all the arguments regarding claim 18, claim 18 is nonobvious over Maxey in further view of Poorman.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully assert that the application is in condition for allowance, which allowance is hereby respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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